



DridhG Security International Private Limited

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Restrictions on Women's Freedom in Afghanistan and Impact on Taliban's International Recognition

July 29, 2023

Prepared for:

Business Enablers

School Principals and Administration

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CIN: U80200DL2023PTC414966 | GST Number: 07AAKCD0603M1ZP



This August: Freedom Still Curtained for Women in Afghanistan



Topics Covered in this Report:

- Restrictions on Women in Afghanistan
- Taliban's Attempt at Gaining International Recognition
- Geopolitical Analysis
- Philosophical Analysis

On 15 August 2023, when India will celebrate Independence Day, it will be the two-year anniversary of curtailing of freedom for women in Afghanistan. Coincidentally on 15 August 2021, Taliban took over Afghanistan without much resistance after Joe Biden's administration withdrew United States' troops from Afghanistan. Upon taking control of Afghanistan the Taliban promised to uphold women's rights. However immediately, there were restrictions on women's movement outside their homes without a male escort. Women were disallowed from working at media houses.



Here is a chronological list of restrictions imposed on Women's Rights:

Timeline	Restrictions
September 2021	Classrooms in universities segregated on the basis of gender. Head coverings mandated for women. Only women or elderly men allowed to teach female students.
March 2022	Girls above Grade 6 disallowed to study at schools
May 2022	Prohibition on leaving home unless women cover their bodies completely (from head to toe.)
November 2022	Women barred from parks and gyms.
December 20, 2022	Women barred from universities.
December 24, 2022	All Non-Governmental Organizations ordered to stop women from working.
April 4, 2023	Women barred from holding office at the United Nations.
July 25, 2023	Women's beauty salons closed post a ban As per an industry estimate, this would impact the livelihood of 60,000 women and closing down of 12,000 businesses.

Attempt at Gaining International Recognition

Given that Taliban's government have imposed, what can only be considered as atrocities and hurdles to progression of women's rights, it remains to be seen whether the international community will grant their administration the recognition which they seek. Recently, some Taliban representatives did meet representatives in Malaysia and Indonesia hoping to improve diplomatic relations. However, treatment towards women and violation of human rights is a major concern.

Geopolitical Analysis

On July 24, 2023, Taliban-appointed defense minister Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid opined that the United States as an obstacle to the international recognition of Afghanistan. If this was true, then after US troops left Afghanistan, the obstacle would have been removed. Last time during Taliban's Rule in Afghanistan (1996 - 2011), only three countries recognized the rule - Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Even these nations have not come forth and given their seal of approval this time. The reason is most likely to protest against the violation of human rights. Even if that is not the case, given the history, a fear of global isolation is a possibility. Some analysts do believe that if Saudi Arabia recognizes Afghanistan, as many as 58



nations will be persuaded to similarly recognize Taliban led Afghanistan. We, at Dridhg Security International Private Limited, disagree. We are not living in a day and age where curbing of basic human rights like right to movement, education and livelihood is tolerated. Moreover, women are now perceived as valuable human resources in jobs across industries and preventing them from working is also a substantial business loss.

Philosophical Analysis

Mujahid's comment about United States being a major obstacle to the international recognition of Afghanistan indicates that he, in line with a supposed misinterpretation of religious protocols, does not see that there is anything immoral in curtailing the freedom of one gender. Taliban leaders reportedly believe that having terrorism on Afghanistan's soil is also a concern for international community. But fail to see that prohibiting women from availing basic amenities and freedoms could be a problem. This is because like the Nazis they perceive women as being less human. It is high time the Taliban leaders change their perspective or at least give priority to economics over social notions of what they believe protocols should be due to their interpretation of religion or spirituality.

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